The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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All that time is lost which might be better employed.—Rousseau.

WHOLE NO. 1156 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1933 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 23, NO. 13

Emery's Wrath

The bitterest opponent of President Roosevelt's National Industrial Recovery Act is James A. Emery, general counsel of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States of America.

The act provides for the establishment of "codes of fair competition" in each industry, with provision for voluntary agreements and licenses in certain cases.

Section 7, called the labor section, prescribes certain rules for setting up these codes, agreements and licenses.

Mr. Emery's animosity was mainly centered on the two paragraphs in Section 7, which declare that every code of fair competition, agreement and license shall contain the following conditions:

"1. That employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives or in self-organizations or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection;

"2. That no employee and no one seeking employment shall be required as a condition of employment to join any company union or to refrain from joining a labor organization of his own choosing."

These two paragraphs accord working men and women no more rights than every patriotic citizen certainly believes they should have.

The first paragraph reasserts the right to organize and bargain collectively without interference from employers.

The second paragraph prohibits employers from compelling employes to join the notorious company union as the price of a job.

But despite these modest provisions to insure the right of the workers to join bona fide unions and freely use them for their own benefit, Mr. Emery told the Senate Finance Committee that the paragraphs would establish a union labor dictatorship over employers and gravely menace the already tottering existence of his favorite employer-controlled company unions.

He was reminded by Senator Wagner, the major author of the measure, that the paragraphs merely reassert the public policy of the United States outlawing the yellow dog contract declared in the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law which Congress enacted by an overwhelming majority. Nevertheless he continued to rave about the labor dictatorship which he alleged Section 7 would develop into with the consent of President Roosevelt, who must approve every code established under the act.

Mr. Emery's opposition, which was to be expected, is positive proof that the Industrial Recovery Act with its labor section should be promptly enacted into law.

For nearly a quarter of a century every measure having for its object the improvement of the conditions of the masses, every piece of forward looking legislation, from adequate child labor laws to the abolition of the injunction in labor disputes and the yellow dog contract, have all received his malignant opposition.

In opposing the President's National Industrial Recovery Act he is merely running true to form.

PLASTERERS FIGHT FEDERAL CONTRACTORS PAY CUT

District of Columbia Union Claims $4 Per Day Wage Slash on Government Buildings Is Illegal

Washington.—Plastering contractors of the Post Office and Agriculture Department buildings here are charged by Charles F. O'Brien, of the Journeymen Plasterers' Union, with arbitrarily reducing wages $4 a day, in protests filed with members of the House of Representatives.

A scale of $1.75 an hour for plasterers was fixed under the Bacon-Davis act for all public building in the District of Columbia under Treasury supervision, Mr. O'Brien points out, and the contractors bid on the jobs with that knowledge, so the cut of 50 cents an hour to $1.25 is utterly unjustified and of no benefit to the Government, the difference going entirely into the pockets of the contractors.

The Master Builders Association of the District of Columbia intervened in the dispute and placed the matter before the Treasury and Labor Departments of the Federal Government.

Despite the well-known fact that the plastering work on buildings is an infinitesimal element in the cost of construction, they told the Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and L. W. Roberts, Jr., in charge of contracts, that the $1.75 demanded by the plasterers, which amounts to $14 a day when they work, is "extraordinarily excessive" and would result in a "great curtailment of private work."

Business Revival Campaign Planned by N. Y. Printers

New York.—As the result of a proposal made by the Allied Printing Trades Council here, a committee has been named by the Employing Printers' Association to work jointly with the International Typographical Union affiliate on a program of cooperation with Federal Government plans for economic revival.

Users of printing here are being urged, both by union and employer groups, to have all their work done in New York City shops. The committees appointed by both groups will meet soon to confer on ways and means to promote their mutual interests.

Sirovich Has Liason Plan To Protect Federal Employes

Washington.—Congressman William I. Sirovich of New York is working to obtain an early hearing on his bill designed to protect Federal workers from injustices possibly arising as a result of the departmental reorganization proposed by President Roosevelt as part of his economy program.

Representative Sirovich says that in the course of reorganization hundreds of thousands of workers will be subject to the whims of their superiors, and that among the many due to lose their jobs some of the ablest will be found unless something is done for their protection. President Roosevelt, he says, would be simply swamped with protests.

The bill provides a liaison officer with power to investigate complaints made by workers and in case of flagrant injustices report them directly to Congress.

Newton A. James, Maryland Labor Official, Dies at 59

Hyattsville, Md.—Newton A. James, prominent in labor circles in Maryland and the District of Columbia, died on May 29 in Emergency Hospital, Washington, of kidney trouble, at the age of 59.

Mr. James was secretary of the Maryland State-District of Columbia Federation of Labor and financial secretary of the Central Labor Union of Washington, of which he was formerly president. He was also business representative of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

The funeral services were held in Sharpsburg, Md., where Mr. James spent his early life.

SENATE VOTES FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Washington.—The Senate approved in five minutes the bill introduced by Senator Wagner of New York to create a federal system of employment agencies in cooperation with the States. The bill appropriates for the system $1,500,000 for the next fiscal year, and $4,000,000 annually for four years thereafter.

The bill creates a United States employment service in the Labor Department and creates the position of director at $8,500 annually. Employes will be under civil service.

N. Y. STRIKING BAKERS RESIST PAY REDUCTIONS

Insist on Shorter Work Day and Complete Shop Control

New York.—Delegates from Locals 505, 507 and 509 of the Bakers' Union resisted the wage-cutting proposals of the Jewish wholesale and retail bakers at the conference convened to consider the controversy which caused the bakers to walk out the first week in May.

On wages the union bakers held out for the old rate of $72 for a first hand, $68 for a second and $50 for a helper. The employers insisted on cutting the rate to $48 for a first hand, $45 for a second, and the replacing of helpers by apprentices at a nominal wage scale.

The strikers were adamant on the question of hours. The union demanded a seven or a seven and one-half hour day, while the employers insisted on continuing the old eight-hour schedule.

To meet in part the employers' desire to eliminate the substitute system, the union delegates expressed their willingness to permit a certain amount of work splitting among union members to minimize unemployment.

The employers suggested that the union form an old man's group to take care of the lighter jobs. This, they said, would automatically remove from the regular union scale bakers who have passed what the employers called the "age of efficiency."

The conference split on the subject of shop control, the union declaring its purpose to continue to exercise entire control.

The conference also split on the question of arbitration. The employers insisted that any controversial point be submitted to compulsory arbitration, while the union held that it would not permit a number of important points to be put before an arbitration committee.

51-Hour-Week Bill Killed By New Hampshire Senate

Concord, N. H.—The reactionary New Hampshire Senate killed the 51-hour work-week bill for women and minors recently passed by the lower house of the legislature.

The Senate Committee on Labor reported the bill unfavorably and its report was approved by a vote of 17 to 7.

Dover Textile Strikers Win 12½ Per Cent Wage Boost

Dover, N. H.—More than 1,000 employes of the Dover branch of the Pacific Mills Corporation of Lawrence, Mass., won their strike for a comfortable wage increase.

The employes walked out on May 12 after the mill management refused to make a 25 per cent advance in pay. Later the company offered to raise wages 10 per cent, which the employes refused to accept. Finally the strikers fixed on a 12½ per cent increase, and the mill officials agreed to pay it.

The strike lasted a little over two weeks.

Night Work for Factory Women Sanctioned by New Hampshire

Concord, N. H.—The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives reported unfavorably on the bill prohibiting night work by women in textile mills and shoe factories. The House of Representatives adopted the committee report.

British Labor Condemns Dictatorship; Hits Communism, Fascism, Hitlerism

Secretary Citrine of Trades Union Congress Reaffirms Faith in Democracy to Emancipate the Workers and Explains Refusal to Join Communist "United Front."

London, Eng.—The British labor movement's reply to the proposal of the Communist party for a united front against Fascism and capitalism repudiated dictatorship in every form and declared the movement's faith in the institutions of democracy to achieve the freedom of the workers.

The document was signed by the National Joint Council representing the Trades Union Congress, the Labor party, and the Parliamentary Labor party.

"Against dictatorship, terrorism, violence and the denial of freedom the National Joint Council, representing the Trades Union Congress, the Labor Party and the Parliamentary Labor Party, has asserted once more the principles of democracy which the organized working class movement exists to promote and defend," declared Walter M. Citrine, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, in a statement commenting on **the manifesto.**

Offensive Against Labor

"The swift march of political events, at home and abroad, has called forth this emphatic declaration of the British Labor movement.

"Reaction has grown bolder and more audacious in its attacks upon the political and economic organizations of the working class. We are witnessing today the climax of the offensive against oranized labor.

"It is almost impossible to doubt that a concerted plan has been pursued by the reactionary interests alarmed by the growth of Labor's political and industrial power, to render abortive the Parliamentary triumphs of Democracy and to subjugate the democratic movements by placing them under the heel of Dictatorship.

Hitlerism Suppresses Liberty

"It would be a profound mistake to regard the rise of Hitlerism in Germany as an isolated phenomenon. It is a part of the widespread reaction against Parliamentarism, and of the re-assertion of capitalist dominance in all spheres. It involves a denial of liberty of speech, the right of public assembly, and the freedom and independence of the workers' political and industrial organizations.

Communist "Unity" Is Dishonest

"It is with the conviction that Reaction cannot be fought by the methods of Dictatorship that the National Joint Council has declined to assent to the proposal of the Communist Party and the Independent Labor Party for the formation of a 'united front' against Fascism."

Pointing out that in proposing the "united front" policy the Communists insist upon the adoption of their entire program, Mr. Citrine emphasized the fact that in the preface to their proposal they made a bitter attack upon both genuine trade unions and labor political parties.

"They made it perfectly plain," he continued, "that the 'united front' is to be a temporary alliance for the period of the present emergency. They hold themselves free, in other words, to resume their destructive and disruptive attacks upon the Trade Union and Labor movement whenever they like. Unity on these terms is impossible.

Enemies of Trade Unions

"Let me remind those who are inclined to regard the proposal of the Communists and the Independent Labor Party as a genuine offer of cooperation and not 'a partisan political manuevre,' that these two bodies are responsible for the divisions and disunity that exists within the organized working class movement today.

"The Communists have continuously attacked the Trade Unions and the Socialist Parties and have endeavored to destroy the faith of the workers in constitutional methods, in parliamentary action, in the attainment of Socialism by peaceful means.

"Communism is based upon Dictatorship, just as Fascism is, and in the exercise of Dictatorship the Communists have shown themselves contemptuous of the democratic principles which the Trade Unions and Socialist Parties are determined to defend.

False Unity Exposed

"For years past it has been our task to defend the workers' organizations, political and industrial, against the attempts at disruption engineered by both the Communist Party and the Independent Labor Party. Was it to promote unity that the Independent Labor Party deserted the Labor Party in the political crisis of 1931, and followed its betrayal by disaffiliating from the party and urging trade unionists to discontinue contributions to Union political funds?

"Our National Joint Council does not believe that any useful purpose can be served by alliance with those who broke the unity of our organized movement, and are still working to undermine the essential conditions of unity."

Poe Mill Textile Strikers Land 15 Per Cent Pay Boost

Greenville, S. C.—Hundreds of employes of the Poe Mills here returned to work with a 15 per cent wage increase, the fruits of the first mill strike in this city since 1929.

In addition to the wage boost, the employes secured the elimination of certain objectionable working conditions and appointed a grievance committee to negotiate with the management whenever in future occasion may arise.

The strikers claimed that many of the employes had not received money wages for more than a year, the company taking every cent at the company store for groceries, rent, coal and other necessities of life.

Walkout of Georgia Textile Employes Brings Higher Pay

Lafayette, Ga.—A 10-day strike by employes of the Consolidated Textile Corporation here ended in a labor victory when the management conceded a 10 per cent wage increase to the 350 operatives involved. The company is a Delaware corporation with headquarters in New York City.

The strike originated among the weavers, but quickly spread to all departments, causing a complete shutdown. The mill now is operating full-time day and night shifts.

WILSON GOES TO LONDON MEET AS LABOR EXPERT

President Roosevelt Appoints Pattern Makers' Head One of the Technical Advisers for American Delegation to World Economic Conference.

Washington.—President Roosevelt appointed James Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio, president of the Pattern Makers' League of North America since 1902, to the position of technical adviser on labor matters for the American delegation to the World Economic Conference opening June 12 at London, England.

In addition to being chief executive of the Pattern Makers' League, Mr. Wilson is vice president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. He was sent to Europe twice during the World War as chairman of labor missions to influence labor organizations of the Allied Powers to cooperate with their governments in the prosecution of the war. He was a delegate of the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress of 1906.

His activities with municipal government in Cincinnati include membership on two charter commssions.

Mr. Wilson is one of sixteen technical experts accompanying the American delegation.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent session in Washington recommended to President Roosevelt the desirability of having labor represented on the American delegation.

DICTATOR FOR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS IS URGED

Chairman of N. Y. Public Works Commission Says Public Is Losing Faith in Local Relief Agencies

New York.—Robert Moses, chairman of the New York State Public Works Commission, urged the setting up of a virtual dictatorship with wartime powers to direct the Federal Government's proposed three billion dollar public works program as a measure of unemployment relief, in an address before the New York City conference on social work. He intimated that public faith in present relief agencies is getting to a pretty low ebb.

Walter W. Petitt, field director of the State temporary relief administration, told the conference that there are 400,000 cases involving 1,600,000 persons on relief rolls in New York State. He said that the "immediate future is dark" and that "regardless of what happens to industry, next winter promises for many relief workers to be more difficult than last winter."

Mary L. Gibbons, director of the Home Relief Bureau of the Department of Public Welfare, said that while public works and improved industrial conditions afford some hope, progress of employment will be slow, and many formerly self-supporting persons must become permanent wards of the State.

AMOSKEAG TEXTILE WORKERS WIN PAY INCREASE STRIKE

Manchester, N. H.—After a number of days tumultuous excitement, accentuated by the absolutely unnecessary presence of State troops called to protect what Mayor Demase Caron called the rights of property, the 7,800 employes of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company won their demand for a 15 per cent wage increase, which the company's refusal to grant caused the wholesale walkout.

The controversy began when the workers demanded a return to the wage scale in operation in February before the mill officials made reductions of from 20 to 40 per cent. The mill officials countered with the statement that a 15 per cent pay increase would be made on July 31. The operatives insisted that the advance be made at once. The mill management refused. The operatives walked out, and the strike was on.

The successful termination of the strike was due to the intervention of Most Rev. John B. Peterson, Bishop of Manchester, who persuaded the mill officials that their action was not in accordance with the principles of economic justice.

The officials pledged themselves that all the strikers would be put back on their jobs and that no discrimination would be exercised against anyone for participation in the strike.

Bishop Peterson and Frederick C. Dumaine, treasurer of the company and spokesman for the directors, made it plain that the wage-increase pledge was only for six or eight weeks until President Roosevelt's national industrial control bill is written into law.

OVER 12,000 TO LOSE JOBS BY U. S. ARMY BUDGET SLASH

Washington.—President Roosevelt's order for a slash of $144,000,000 in appropriations for the War Department for the next fiscal year will result in thousands of workers losing their jobs.

It was stated that $90,000,000 of the $144,000,000 reduction must come from the non-military activities of the Government and $54,000,000 from the river and harbor and other public works under the corps of Army engineers.

Secretary of War Dern said that the $90,000,000 slash in straight military appropriations would mean the discharge of from 12,000 to 15,000 enlisted men and of from 2,000 to 3,000 commissioned officers.

Observers pointed out, however, that the privates would undoubtedly be able to enlist in the Civilian Conservation Corps for reforestation and similar work recently set up by the President with wages at $30 per month and keep.

The condition of the enlisted men would thus be improved because under the pay slashes of the economy act privates in the U. S. Army now receive only $17.50 a month compared with the $30 a month in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

So far as the 2,000 commissioned officers are concerned, it is probable that the Government will also transfer them to the Conservation Corps, which, when it reaches its maximum of 250,000 men, will require about as many officers as the same number of men in the regular army.

Shoe Workers Win Strike

Lowell, Mass.—Fifteen hundred shoe workers on strike in four factories here for seven weeks won a 10 per cent increase in wages.

FRAYNE ON U. S. LABOR DELEGATION TO GENEVA

A. F. of L. General Organizer Selected One of Four American Observers at International Labor Conference.

Washington.—Hugh Frayne, labor official in charge of the New York office of the American Federation of Labor since 1910, was appointed one of four official observers of the United States Government at the International Labor Conference which opens in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 8.

The other members of the delegation are Miss Mary Anderson, chief of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor; Edwin H. Smith, Commissioner of Labor in Massachusetts, and William H. Stead of Minnesota, executive secretary of the Tri-State Employment Stabilization Committee.

The appointments were made by Secretary of Labor Perkins with the approval of President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull.

The Geneva conference will discuss steps taken by nations throughout the world for reducing hours of work, providing invalid and old age insurance, employment exchanges and unemployment insurance.

Mr. Frayne is well equipped to represent American labor at the Geneva conference. He began his career as a trade union official in 1901, when he became general vice president and chairman of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance and a general organizer of the American Federation of Labor.

In July, 1917, President Wilson appointed him labor representative on the War Industries Board of the Council of National Defense, and when the board became a separate government agency he was put in direct charge of its labor division, serving until it was dissolved in 1919.

He represented the War Industries Board on the war labor policies board, the training and dilution service and the labor committee of the American Federation of Labor. He organized and developed the war prison labor and national waste reclamation section of the labor division.

In 1923, in recognition of his war service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the United States Congress.

In the field of social service Mr. Frayne has always been active in promoting legislation to safeguard the health and lives of industrial workers.

He is a member of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor, which organization in 1920 awarded him a gold medal in recognition of his work for prison reform.

REPEAL WOULD CAUSE LARGE INCOME TAX CUT

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor's position in favor of prompt repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment is given added impetus by the declaration of Postmaster General James Farley that 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 people would pay $4 to $6 for each $100 of their earnings in income taxes this year unless prohibition is written off the statutes and a liquor levy made available as a source of revenue.

The Postmaster General pointed out that under the national industrial recovery bill, with its labor protection clauses included at the instance of the American Federation of Labor, it will be necessary to raise many millions yearly to service the immense sum appropriated for carrying out the Roosevelt program, and that an excise tax on liquors is one of the least onerous ways of carrying the added burden.

FUR WORKERS WIN UNION SHOP; RED RABBLE ROUTED

New York City.—The Fur Workers' Union of the American Federation of Labor won its fight to unionize the shops of the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers Association. The employers posted all their shops with notices that only members of this union would be employed.

The employers agreed to improve working conditions and end all violation of minimum wage agreements, according to Samuel Shorr, representative of the Fur Workers' Union.

Distribution by union workers of a leaflet charging existence of a plot between reds and certain employers to maintain sweatshop conditions brought on an attack by a Communist-led rabble of 250, who were dispersed without any injuries or arrests by mounted police and plain clothes men.

30-Hour Week Would Increase Number of Jobs in This Mill

Youngstown, Ohio.—George F. Alderice, president of the Commercial Shearing and Stamping Co., reports that his company is operating three eight-hour shifts making steel bodies and hydraulic hoists.

The three eight-hour shifts in this plant illustrate the immense benefit to the unemployed which would result from the prompt enactment of the Federal six-hour day and five-day week bill now before the United States Congress at Washington.

If that bill were the law of the land, President Alderice would operate with four six-hour shifts and employ 25 per cent more workers.

Fur Workers Plan $250,000 Unemployment Insurance Fund

New York.—The Fur Workers' Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor announced that it had submitted a plan to establish a $250,000 unemployment insurance fund for the union's members to the employers represented by the Associated Fur Coat Manufacturers and Trimming Association.

The union's proposal asks the employers to contribute 2 per cent of their weekly pay rolls to the unemployment fund. About 10,000 fur workers would be affected.

The union also asked that the present time limits for equal division of work be extended to include July and August as well as June, November and December, as now provided for, in order to equalize employment.

Pay Increase Given Cotton Mill Strikers in Mobile, Ala.

Mobile, Ala.—The striking employes of the Cotton Mill Products Co. here went back to work with a 10 per cent wage increase.

Green Calls Labor Conference On Industrial Recovery Bill

A. F. of L. President Says Concerted Effort of Workers Must Be Exercised to Secure Maximum Benefits in Administration of the Measure and Prevent Employers from Becoming Its Sole Beneficiaries—Five Million Toilers Represented at Meeting—Nationwide Organization Campaign Planned.

Washington.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, called the presidents of the national and international unions affiliated with the Federation to a conference in the A. F. of L. headquarters at Washington on June 6 to consider Roosevelt's Industrial Recovery bill in its relation to the welfare of the workers.

An official announcement by the Federation regarding the objects of the conference said:

"This meeting is convened for the specific purpose of giving direct and special consideration to the provisions of the Industrial Recovery Act. Obviously, this bill is of vital interest to labor because it directly affects the economic and industrial interests of every working man and woman.

Labor's Rights Paramount

"At this meeting plans will be formulated through which the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor will seek to secure for the working men and women of the Nation all the rights and benefits which are guaranteed in the provisions of the bill.

"Labor is determined that industry, corporations and the owners of industry shall not be the exclusive beneficiaries of organization, price stabilization and the elimination of unfair trade practices, as provided for in the act.

"Labor proposes to see to it that the measure shall not operate in this one-sided fashion.

"Labor must share equitably and fully in the benefits which flow from the right to organize, to engage in collective bargaining and to be represented by representatives of their own choosing, as provided for in the bill.

Organization Campaign

"The president of the American Federation of Labor will recommend that an organizing campaign be launched so that the unorganized workers of the country through organization may participate in the benefits of the bill and may demand that employers negotiate with their chosen representatives in the establishment of decent wages, shorter hours and improved conditions of employment.

"It will be suggested that this organizing campaign be started quickly, that the message of organization be carried to the unorganized workers of the Nation and through such a campaign they will be advised of their rights under the provisions of this act and the necessity for united action in order to secure for themselves the economic and social benefits, as well as the enjoyment of all the rights to which they are entitled under the provisions of the Industrial Recovery Act.

Union Machinery Ready

"More than five million workers will be represented at this conference directly and many additional millions indirectly.

"The machinery of organization is set up in every State, city and town throughout the Nation.

"Through functioning National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies, chartered by the American Federation of Labor for many years, the campaign of organization will be carried on.

"It is planned that immediately following the completion of the work of the conference labor will be mobilized for organization service and organization activities.

"In this great national emergency, the American Federation of Labor, as in every crisis, is prepared to take the initiative and to lead the movement for a realization of all the benefits provided for in the Industrial Recovery Act for the working men and women of the Nation."

SALES TAX GOUGERS VICTIMIZE CONSUMERS

New York.—Mark Graves, president of the State Tax Commission, declared that unscrupulous marking up of products for retail sales under the guise of payments of a sales tax will be heavily penalized.

"Some dealers," he said, "have attempted to make use of the sales tax to gouge their customers and are exacting exorbitant prices far in excess of a one per cent addition."

Mr. Graves cited an instance in which a suit of clothes was advertised for $15, and when payment was made the merchant demanded an additional $5 because of the tax. He said the penalty for such misrepresentation is suspension of the retailer's license, and a fine of $100 or a year in prison for continuing in business after such suspension.

British Trade Unions Support Finnish Seamen in Wage Strike

London.—British dockers and railway men's unions decided not to handle cargoes brought to England in Finnish ships if the dispute between Finnish shipowners and seamen is not settled in three weeks.

The Finnish seamen and firemen went on strike the last of April, and the sympathetic strike of the British dockers and railway men is designed to help them in their fight for higher wages, which are said to be about one-third the pay received by similar labor in England.

The Trades Union Congress contributed 500 pounds to the relief fund for the Finnish strikers.

Hosiery Union Names Special Committee on Work Conditions

Philadelphia.—Anticipating the passage of President Roosevelt's industrial control bill, the national executive committee of the American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers has appointed President Rieve and a board of five members from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey as an emergency committee with full authority to negotiate as may be necessary under the terms of the act to assure fair wage and work conditions in their industry.

Realizing that the Government will not deal in this matter with the full-fashioned trade alone, the seamless division of the United Textile Workers of America has been merged with the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers' Union, which has extended its jurisdiction to include the entire hosiery industry, seamless as well as full-fashioned.

St. Louis Nutshellers Win Strike for Higher Wages

St. Louis, Mo.—The nutshellers here won their strike for better pay, the several firms involved agreeing to the increase, although their officials put up the usual claim that operation is unprofitable at the present market. Hoffman Bros., the Barnhart Mercantile Co. and the Funsten Co. and other firms were involved.

Mayor Dickmann and a committee assisted in bringing about a settlement of the controversy.

Twenty-one strikers were fined on the rotten charge of "unlawful assembly."

Syracuse Saves $600,000 In Feeding Needy Families

Syracuse, N. Y.—A threat to establish a city commissary, early last year, to feed the needy families of the unemployed, brought about a prompt offer from the 200 grocers here, through the Civic Defense League, to supply welfare commissions with all required foodstuffs at wholesale cost, plus 12 per cent for handling.

The first year's operation of this system has saved the city more than $600,000, according to a report to Mayor Rolland B. Marvin, compared with what it would have cost had not threat of city competition forced the grocers to moderate their charges.

LOW-WAGE CHILD WORKERS WIN 3-HOUR WAGE STRIKE

Philadelphia School Girls Employed By U. S. Contractor for Army Clothing, Wring Pay Increase from Sweatshop Employer.

Philadelphia.—A heavy blow was given sweatshop plants in Philadelphia when the Long Wear Manufacturing Company, which holds a $50,510 contract with the Government to convert Army underclothing for use of the Civilian Conservation Corps, made large concessions to the firm's underpaid and overworked employes who struck against the intolerable wages, hours and work conditions imposed by the contractor.

Sweatshop Wages

The strike was precipitated when some 45 school girls, aged 16 to 21, recently employed, found they were paid less than the $6 a week promised them. The girls walked out in a body and sent a committee to Max Zubrow, the plant's manager, with their grievances. The committee included Miss Elizabeth Wight and Mrs. Anna Owens, of the Philadelphia Board of Education's junior employment service.

Walkout Lasts Three Hours

The strike lasted just three hours, when the factory manager made the following concessions:

No piecework; $10 a week minimum for wrapping bundles of underclothing; a cent and a quarter extra for each bundle above 550 wrapped in a week; a 41¼-hour week; a 7¼-hour day with five hours on Saturday; 45 minutes for lunch, in comparison with the previous half hour; no discrimination against strikers and no discrimination against colored workers; no discharge because of taking part in the strike, and recognition of a shop committee.

This was the improvement secured for all girls doing unskilled labor at the plant.

The old rates of $6 to $9 a week paid boys and youths were also raised to $10 a week for boys under 18 and $14 for boys over 18.

Women Get Pay Increase

Inspired by the success of the girls' strike the women doing skilled needle work for from $8 to $15 a week got into action and threatened a walkout. The boys and girls supported the women and said they would strike in sympathy unless the firm came across with a fair wage. As a result piecework was eliminated for the women and they were guaranteed $4 a day or $22.50 a week.

In an attempted justification of the starvation wages paid before the strike, Max Zubrow, the manager, said that "although the $6 a week to girls and $9 to boys which we have been paying may seem low, it is much above the average being paid in many establishments in Philadelphia."

Net and Twine Workers Win Strike Against Speed-Up

Anniston, Ala.—The employes of the American Net and Twine Company's mill here won their strike against the speed-up "efficiency system" which the management sought to install. The company is a New England concern with headquarters in Boston and mills in West Kennebunk, Me., and Gloucester, Mass.

Welwood Silk Mill Gives Strikers Wage Increase

Crossville, Tenn.—The employes of the Welwood Silk Mill here won their strike for fair treatment and a wage increase. The mill boss phrased the pay boost to take place when business conditions permit it, but employes returned to their jobs despite the vagueness of the promise. The temper of the employes is so resentful over their low pay that unless the increase is granted very soon there will be another walkout. The mill management knows this, and the boost will not be very long delayed.